



**Course Syllabus**  
**AREN 3343 / CE 3343**  
**SOIL MECHANICS**  
**Fall 2017**

**Instructor:** Dr. Laureano R. Hoyos, Ph.D., P.E.

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**Faculty Profile:** <https://www.uta.edu/profiles/laureano-hoyos>

**Office Hours:** TR, 11:30am – 1:00pm

**Course Section(s):** AREN 3343-001, AREN 3343-101, CE 3343-001, CE 3343-101

**Time and Place of Class Meetings:** NH 229, TR, 9:30am – 10:50am

**Description of Course Content:** The course provides a fundamental understanding of crucial engineering properties and mechanical behavior of soil materials, including soil classification, compaction, permeability, compressibility, and shear strength.

**Course Prerequisite(s):** Make sure you consult with your undergraduate advisor.

**Reference Textbook(s):** Das, B.M. (2006). Principles of Geotechnical Engineering. Cengage Learning: 7th Edition. **(Class notes in pdf format will be provided.)**

**Additional Reference(s):**

- (1) Coduto, D.P. (1999). Geotechnical Engineering: Principles and Practices. Prentice Hall.
- (2) Holtz, R.D., and Kovacs, W.D. (1981). An Introduction to Geotechnical Engrg. Prentice Hall.

**Description of Major Assignments and Examinations:** **Six (6) homework assignments, two (2) midterm exams, and one (1) comprehensive final exam.** All homework assignments must be turned in at the start of the class period in which they are due. Failure to do so will constitute a grade of zero for the homework assignment in question. **At least one-week advanced notice will be provided in scheduling each midterm exam.** The final exam will be given according to the university's published final exams schedule. Unexcused failure to appear for an exam at the scheduled time will constitute a grade of zero in that exam.

**Grading:** Arithmetic average of all assigned homeworks (15%), Midterm exams (25% each), and Final exam (35%). **Final Grading Scale:** A: 90-100, B: 80-89, C: 70-79, D: 60-69, F: 59 or less.

**Attendance:** At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator in student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. In this course, **attendance will be taken sporadically but not factored into the final grade**; however, no special accommodations will be made for missed assignments or exams, unless for medical or similarly compelling hardships\*. While UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients "begin attendance in a course." UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Blackboard. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

**\*Make-up Exams:** No make-up exams will be given except for medical or other similar hardships where advanced arrangements are made with the instructor; or in case of non-selective medical emergencies with appropriate physician's note or documentation. Other than circumstances described above, failure to take the exam at the scheduled time will constitute a grade of zero in the exam.

**Final Review Week:** For semester-long courses, a period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate. In this course, previously assigned work **may have a completion date during final review week**, and material covered in lectures during this week **may be included in the comprehensive final examination**.

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

**Disability Accommodations:** UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, *The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA)*, and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of **a letter certified** by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting: **The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD)** [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or calling 817-272-3364. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability). **Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)** [www.uta.edu/caps/](http://www.uta.edu/caps/) or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

**Non-Discrimination Policy:** *The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit [uta.edu/eos](http://uta.edu/eos).*

**Title IX Policy:** The University of Texas at Arlington (“University”) is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence

Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. *For information regarding Title IX, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX) or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or [jmhood@uta.edu](mailto:jmhood@uta.edu).*

**Academic Integrity:** Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code in their courses by having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University. Additional information is available at <https://www.uta.edu/conduct/>.

**Electronic Communication:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**Campus Carry:** Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>.

**Student Feedback Survey (SFS):** At the end of each term, students enrolled in face-to-face and online classes categorized as "lecture," "seminar," or "laboratory" are directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback

via the SFS database is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. Students' anonymity will be protected to the extent that the law allows. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law and aggregate results are posted online. Data from SFS is also used for faculty and program evaluations. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit (stairwells) next to the elevators. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.

**Student Support Services:** UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include [tutoring](#), [major-based learning centers](#), developmental education, [advising and mentoring](#), personal counseling, and [federally funded programs](#). For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>.

### Tentative Scheduling of Lectures by Chapter/Subject

Chapter(s)	Subject(s)	Schedule
Chapters 1 – 3	Origin of Soils and Classification	Aug. – Sep., 2017
Chapter 4	Volume-Weight Relationships	Sep. – Oct., 2017
Chapter 5	Soil Compaction	Oct., 2017
<u>Midterm Exam</u>	Chapters 1 – 5	TBA
Chapters 6 – 7	Soil Permeability	Oct., 2017
Chapters 8 – 9	Soil Strength	Oct. – Nov., 2017
<u>Midterm Exam</u>	Chapters 6 – 9	TBA
Chapters 10 – 11	Soil Compressibility (Consolidation)	Nov. – Dec., 2017
<u>Final Exam</u>	Chapters 1 – 11 (Comprehensive)	December 14, 2017

## Tested Explicitly (TE) Component

The Civil Engineering Department ABET accreditation procedure includes assessing the achievement of various departmental student learning outcomes (<http://www.uta.edu/ce/accreditation.php>). The procedure includes explicit testing (TE) of the achievement of the departmental student learning outcomes.

CE 3343 Soil Mechanics is designated as a TE course, and will involve explicit testing of ABET outcome “e”. This will be achieved through specific problems given to test student knowledge of the outcome, which is reproduced below:

CE Department Outcome “e” – An ability to identify, formulate, and solve engineering problems.

The **second midterm exam** will be designated as the explicit assessment tool for student achievement of outcome “e” in this course. The total grade of this exam will be 100. A minimum grade of 70 will be deemed to signify that a student has satisfactorily achieved the outcome. The TE exam will also be counted towards the final grade for this course.

## ABET Student Learning Outcomes

An ability to apply knowledge of mathematics, science, and engineering	a
An ability to design a system, component, or process to meet desired needs within realistic constraints such as economic, environmental, social, political, ethical, health and safety, manufacturability, and sustainability	c
An ability to identify, formulate and solve engineering problems	e
An understanding of professional and ethical responsibility	f
An ability to communicate effectively	g
The broad education necessary to understand the impact of engineering solutions in a global, economic, environmental and societal context	h
A recognition of the need for, and an ability to engage in life-long learning	i
A knowledge of contemporary issues	j
An ability to use the techniques, skills and modern engineering tools necessary for engineering practice	k